



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, February 20, 2018 Meeting**

**Members Present** - The members present were Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, Michele Miller, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director, Scott Brown, Parks Manager, and Lauren Lange, Recorder, were also present.

Also present was Jim Dziatkowicz and Steve Kolwicz from POD Design

The minutes from the January 16, 2018 meeting were approved.

**McCord Park Planning** – Mr. Hurley shared that POD Design had met with a group of six gardeners for a design workshop on January 17. POD facilitated a process utilizing drawing tools and a map with cutouts of the desired amenities to create two drafted alternative designs. Mr. Dziatkowicz described his presentation to the community gardeners and how the participants interacted. One of the designs showed the full garden in its current location with all other amenities worked in around it and the other showed six plots or about 25% of the total square footage of the garden footprint removed from the east end of the garden and the remaining amenities worked in around it.

Members reviewed the alternative designs and explored the impact to the other aspects of the plan. There was considerable discussion regarding the impacted layout of the playground which was shrunk and shifted along the south side of the garden in the new designs. Members felt that would push the playground pods too close to already concerned neighbors they had heard from in the first open house and would make the pods so small that the playground pod wouldn't be significant enough so they asked POD to only show playground pods on the east and west side of the garden. They also expressed concern about the loss of green space around the shelters and whether having them too close together would create issues for renters.

Mr. Hurley asked Commission Members what they would like for their next step. Mr. Calamari stated he felt further public feedback would be a good step prior to going to City Council with a recommendation. Ms. Miller expressed concern that the meeting would only produce gardeners who are organized and the general public would not participate making it difficult to know the true feeling of the overall community. Members suggested staff assess the best methods to get the word out to the community to be sure all have a say. Mr. Dziatkowicz and Mr. Kolwicz asked for input on how to structure the open house. Members felt choosing one of the designs including the garden to allow the community to compare and contrast to the originally recommended concept that did not include the garden would be the best way to obtain feedback and minimize confusion. Mr. Hurley indicated City Council had asked him to be sure one of the concepts shared showed the full garden in its place. It was agreed one of the garden

concepts would be shared alongside the originally proposed concept and the other drawing with the garden in it would be incorporated into the open house in another way.

Members passed the following motion: *To hold a public open house and present two concept plans, the originally recommended concept plan and one of the drawings from the recent workshop but with the playground areas relocated.*

Mr. Hurley will be scheduling the public open house to be held at the Community Center. Ideally this will take place before the March Parks and Recreation Commission meeting but he will check the City calendar and poll members for availability. He asked all members to do their best to be present.

**Olentangy Parklands Restroom Project** – Mr. Brown shared the latest plans for the addition of a restroom facility at the Olentangy Parklands. The restroom will be placed close to the tennis courts between an existing storage building and the small shelter/trailhead. It was determined due to cost that keeping the existing storage building and not adding storage space into the new restroom would be the recommendation saving \$75,000 to upsize the new facility. The new restroom facility will be a prefabricated building. Mr. Brown displayed drawings and pictures to the members of the planned building and exterior options. This building will be climate controlled, open year round, and have electronic timed locks installed. Mr. Brown visited a location with a similar restroom in Lima, Ohio, and showed pictures of the structure. He received very positive feedback on it from staff there. Mr. Wendling asked about how resistant to vandalism the building would be. Mr. Brown assured that the material on the exterior surface would be able to handle vandalism removal. Members expressed their excitement for this new amenity to be added to this park.

**Other** – None

Being no further business, the motion for the meeting to adjourn was granted.